



Helicopter landing on the former NOAA Ship Surveyor in the Arctic Pack Ice



Arctic region reference map with place names



The North Pole, April, 2000
Photograph by Sigrid Salo,
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Arctic Research Office

Integrating NOAA's research in a region critical to our nation and our planet

What does the Arctic Research Office do for the nation?

The Arctic Research Office (ARO) serves as a focal point for NOAA's research activities in the Arctic, Bering Sea, and other regions. The office manages the Arctic Research Initiative and other funds allocated to it, supporting both internal NOAA and extramural research. It undertakes coordination and outreach activities to support scientific research. It represents NOAA on the Interagency Arctic Research Plan and provides a point of contact between NOAA and the Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research and the International University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Recent Accomplishments:

Brought together the Arctic countries to undertake the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment by organizing the formative scientific meeting. **Payoffs: Scientifically sound Arctic climate assessments of climate impacts will be presented to the Council for policy action in 2001 and 2004 respectively.**

Lead the U.S. agencies to develop an environmental change in the Arctic. **Payoffs: their efforts to achieve a comprehensive change in the Arctic and of its consequences in the Arctic hemisphere.**

Lead development of the Arctic Theme Page (www.arctic.noaa.gov/) to bring Arctic science to students and the general public. **Payoffs: Public awareness of the Arctic people, Arctic environment and wildlife, and role of the Arctic in our weather, climate, and quality of life.**

Scientists supported by the Arctic Research Office have:

" Provided key data demonstrating the importance of for bringing persistent organic pollutants, mercury and to the Arctic. **Payoffs: More confident assessment of risks to and the environment from toxic chemicals.**

Demonstrated linkages among climate variability, ecosystem productivity and Native subsistence hunting. **information to managers and policy makers.**

Developed models and conducted diagnostic studies to determine how Arctic atmospheric processes control climate and weather at mid-latitudes. **Payoffs: Improved weather and short-term climate forecasts by including Arctic processes in forecast models.**

Science challenges for the next decade:

Can we quantify the real riskCan we quantify the real risks to Arctic species levels of contaminants present in the Arctic?

The Arctic Research Office has a base budget of \$1.6 million and a staff of 25. The Arctic Research Office provides support for university employees at the Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research.

